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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 26, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RASHIDA TLAIB to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SLOUCHING TOWARD A WELFARE STATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is sobering to know that American exceptionalism is only a few degrees away from extinction. It should never be that way.

One of the greatest threats we face as a Nation is the creation of a welfare state and, subsequently, the mentality that is bred by one.

It seems that many have forgotten the simple principle that Americans have always abided by: Here, we work to earn our keep. Over the course of the last 9 months, that principle has become lost.

It is evident that America is no longer slouching toward socialism; we are standing on its doorstep. We are much better than this as a country.

The welfare-without-work expansions that are being proposed by the majority are dangerous. One of those expansions is the child tax credit that bears no work requirements for recipients.

Twenty-five years ago, Republicans and Democrats came together to reform America's welfare system. It was a bipartisan effort through and through. But if you fast-forward to today, the majority has ignored the spirit of that agreement in favor of their own distorted agenda.

Simply put, the majority has turned the child tax credit into a cash-for-kids handout. Remember, the recipients of this handout are not required to work to receive it.

Just last week, President Biden admitted during a CNN townhall that he opposes a work requirement. Keep in mind that members of the President's own party, such as Senator MANCHIN, are advocating for a work requirement.

The University of Chicago recently published a study showing how expanding the child tax credit disincentivizes work. In fact, it would lead to an exodus of 1.5 million workers from the workforce. America simply can't afford that.

When you consider the loss of 1.5 million workers and the abysmal jobs reports that have come out this year, it is clear that something is wrong. The labor force participation rate plummeted last month to 61.6 percent. The last time the labor force participation rate was 61.6 percent was in April of 1976.

There are roughly 3 months left in 2021, and at this pace America is on

track to fall right off the cliff and onto the rocks below. That is the cost of government dependency. That is the cost of providing a steady stream of other taxpayer checks that pay more to sit at home than to work.

Pitting Main Street businesses against government-led benefits won't build the economy back. It won't get Americans back to work, and it certainly won't steer our great country to brighter and better days.

American exceptionalism is not built by welfare or sitting at home collecting a check. It is built by everyday people who show up at work and get the job done. If that fundamental principle is lost, then America will be lost as well.

There is no denying that America is standing on socialism's doorstep. Look at the state our country is in because of the majority's failed policies and what could come down the line.

Government dependency robs this great country and its citizens of unparalleled opportunity. The majority has steered us in that direction, and the American people should be downright fearful.

AMERICA'S FAILING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MUST BE REPLACED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. O'HALLERAN). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we can't build back better without replacing every inch of lead service line in our country.

In too many of our communities from Flint to Benton Harbor to the cities of Wayne and Hamtramck and across the State of Michigan and our Nation, the water is poisoned with lead.

We have an opportunity now to change it, with a bold and clear investment to replace every single lead-contaminated service line in our Nation.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Experts have already estimated that we need \$60 billion to replace every service lead pipeline in America. But we know the Senate proposal—which was negotiated without a shred of input from frontline communities or their representatives—only devotes \$15 billion. That is just simply not enough.

People are drinking water with lead now, and we know which communities lose out when there isn't enough money to go around. They are communities that look like mine. It is environmental justice neighborhoods.

We must—we must—do more, and we already have secured another \$30 billion in Build Back Better to get us closer to our goal. Again, a clear way to bring us all together is making sure that we all have access to clean water.

There are 2.65 million service lines in Michigan, and over 12 percent of those lines are contaminated with lead. To replace these lead pipes in Michigan alone, it would cost \$1.65 billion.

Again, I ask everyone, how can we build back better when children are being poisoned?

Benton Harbor in Michigan needs \$11.4 million to provide clean water to its residents. We just discovered new lead-contaminated issues in the cities of Wayne and Hamtramck in Michigan. That is why it is critical that the Federal Government, our government, steps up with bold and aggressive investment.

In 2018 a report from the Natural Resources Defense Council revealed that between 2015 and 2018 about 5.5 million Americans in communities around the Nation got their water from a system that exceeded the EPA's lead action level of 15 parts per billion. That is just the stuff we know about. We know that there is more.

The threat of lead-contaminated water is a longstanding one that has overwhelmingly impacted communities like mine, low-income communities, communities of color, for decades. And yet we have not done anything meaningful for a very long time to really, truly remove lead service lines.

We continue waking up to stories about children being poisoned with lead and cities handing out bottled water because we have failed to invest in our water infrastructure. Folks are being forced to drink, bathe, cook, and wash dishes with water that is literally contaminated with lead because politicians have put their well-being on the back burner.

On top of it all, the leaky, outdated infrastructure also means many of those same people can't even afford to pay for water that is being poisoned. Literally, they are paying money for water that is contaminated with lead. Some people in Washington like to pretend to worry about how we are going to pay for lead pipe replacement, but what we really can't afford is another moment of inaction.

Clean, affordable drinking water is a human right. There are Flints and Benton Harbors and cities of Wayne and

Hamtramck in every part of this country, communities right now where children are drinking water that can alter the course of their lives forever.

So please join me in replacing lead service lines across the country. It is a moral imperative. We need to immediately pass the full \$45 billion in the Senate proposal as well as the Build Back Better proposal. Again, there is no building back without it.

CONGRATULATING BROOKE CHILDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my district director, Brooke Childers, for being named a member of the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association's "40 under 40" class of 2021.

Brooke graduated from Georgia Southern University in 2005 with a degree in political science. Since graduating, Brooke has served her community with immense passion and dedication. As our district director, Brooke has ensured that the highest levels of constituent outreach and services are met throughout the district.

From cofounding a southeastern Rotary E-Club to volunteering across Georgia's First District, Brooke continues to make a lasting impact.

Whatever role Brooke has occupied, she has exemplified compassion, determination, and leadership. A model public servant, Brooke is well deserving of this prestigious honor.

I am proud to have her on our team, and I am thankful for all that she does for the First District and the entire State of Georgia. I am forever grateful to have her lead our district office and represent us in our community.

OCTOBER IS AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as American Pharmacists Month.

As a pharmacist, I have seen firsthand the impact pharmacists have on people's lives. Throughout this pandemic, pharmacists have helped distribute lifesaving medicines and care to those in need.

Pharmacists across our country deserve to be recognized for their service in helping others through these unprecedented times. Every day these pharmacists are providing vaccines for a number of illnesses and carefully counseling patients on prescriptions.

As a pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize the work these individuals are doing every day to serve their local communities around the country. Their commitment to serving their communities is to be admired by all.

Mr. Speaker, this month, as well as through the rest of the year, I encourage everyone to visit their pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, and get to know the people who provide your medicine and work to keep you healthy.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF TONY COPE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Tony Cope of Savannah, Georgia, who sadly passed away on October 8 at the age of 83.

Founder and director of the Oatland Island Wildlife Center, Tony dedicated his life to teaching and inspiring the next generation.

After attending college, Tony returned to Savannah, where he would serve the community for over 30 years as an author, educator, baseball coach, and an administrator.

Beyond the classroom, Tony's life work was sharing his love of Savannah with others. Authoring many books about his beloved hometown, Tony's work touched countless lives.

As president of the Savannah Symphony and member of the Rotary Club East, Tony's passion for his community was undeniable.

Despite retiring to Ireland, Tony was always first and foremost a Savannah native.

I am grateful for Tony's service to Georgia's First Congressional District, and I know his legacy will never be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

AWARD-WINNING SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for being awarded the number one airport in the country by 2021 Conde Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards.

More than 800,000 readers rated the Savannah airport as the number one destination that they cannot wait to return to.

Since opening their doors in 1929, the Savannah airport has helped shape the Savannah community into a world-renowned travel destination.

This distinguished award highlights the airport's exemplary customer service and dedication to safety and security.

Providing the Savannah community with countless jobs and tremendous service, Savannah's airport has contributed immensely to the economic success of Georgia's First Congressional District.

Much like the readers of Conde Nast Traveler, I believe the southern charm of Savannah's airport makes it a truly unforgettable experience.

I look forward to the continued success of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.